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## ***Baghdad residents and businesses receive quality water***

By Polli Barnes Keller  
 Gulf Region Division

**Baghdad, Iraq**— Baghdad, Iraq – Serving more than 2000 homes and businesses, two water networks at a cost of \$2.6 million are almost complete in the Kadamiyah area of Baghdad.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division and the Baghdad Water Authority are working together to replace the old and damaged pipeline system in the Kadamiyah district to supply a better quality and quantity of water.

According to the Gulf Region Central districts International Zone project engineer, Malath Al Rawas, approximately 17,000 linear meters of ductile iron water pipe was laid at each of the sites. Per Baghdad Water Authority requirements, both pipe systems were hydrostatically tested, then sterilized and flushed before being put into use. All materials used in the network such as the ductile iron pipes, iron fittings, valves, fire hydrants and house connection pipes are tested in the BWA lab to ensure they meet international codes and specifications.

“We’re replacing the old pipe network with ductile iron water mains,” said Al-Rawas. “It is a better quality than the previous pipes and the benefits are longer lasting.”

As the heat of summer rises and water is in more demand, unauthorized tapping into water systems is common in Baghdad. Steel pipes will lessen this occurrence. The steel is more difficult to damage than the standard polyvinyl chloride pipes and lessens the threat of tapping. Water tapping affects the network’s ability to operate properly by lowering the water pressure and greatly increase the risk of contamination.



Sgt. 1st Class Hector Cruzalicea, Gulf Region Central district’s International Zone NCOIC, is one of the construction inspectors for two new water networks in the Kadamiyah area of Baghdad. Traveling to the sites several times a month, he ensures the projects are performed based on the scope of work according to the contract and international codes. (USACE photo)

Al-Rawas explains the benefits of the new system, “The existing system is old and does not serve the area adequately. The new system will not only last longer but is designed better. If there is a problem in a sector, we can isolate the area and make repairs without stopping service to the other sectors.”

The old networks are being replaced and extended to service more homes and businesses. Included in the new design are 10 fire hydrants located throughout the neighborhoods.

These combined water networks costing \$2.6 million are funded by the Economic Support Fund and built by a local Iraqi construction company. Engineers from the Gulf Region Division participate as the contracting and construction

management/quality assurance of the over-all project.

Sgt. 1st Class Hector Cruzalicea, Gulf Region Central district's International Zone non-commissioned officer in charge, is one of the construction inspectors for the two networks. Traveling to the sites several times a month, he ensures the construction is performed based on the scope of work according to the contract and meets international codes.

"I gain personal satisfaction knowing I am part of this joint reconstruction effort," said Cruzalicea. "It is such a crucial mission and there aren't many jobs out there where you witness the progress of a project from start to finish. Here you are able to see the end results of your work and meet the people it affects."

Started in August 2007, these water networks are under construction and scheduled

for completion by the end of 2008. Currently GRD has completed 24 water distribution projects in the Baghdad area costing \$18.5 million and is working on 9 more at \$16 million.

"GRD is working hard to provide Baghdad with safe, quality water," said Wade Ricard, the Gulf Region Central district's International Zone resident engineer. "We're giving more water to more people so the need to tap into the systems is alleviated, in turn so are the problems associated with tapping, which are low water pressure and contamination."

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More than 2000 homes and businesses will receive a better quality and quantity of water. Approximately 17,000 linear meters of ductile iron water pipe was laid at each of the sites in the Kadamiyah area of Baghdad. (USACE photo)





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